

**ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

On 2 April 2020, I issued an [order with seven emergency directives](#) affecting the North Carolina Judicial Branch in response to the emerging public health threat posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Additional information about that order and the Judicial Branch's response to the COVID-19 outbreak is available at <https://www.nccourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus-updates>.

This emergency directive is now necessary to reduce the spread of infection and to ensure the continuing operation of essential court functions.

Accordingly, I hereby determine and declare under N.C.G.S. § 7A-39(b)(2) that catastrophic conditions resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak have existed and continue to exist in all counties of this state.

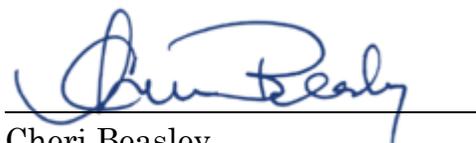
Emergency Directive 8

Marriages establish and implicate numerous rights and legal obligations (e.g., military deployments, social security benefits, pensions, workers' compensation benefits, and disability benefits). The date of marriage may impact these rights and legal obligations. It is therefore essential that individuals continue to have access to the performance of marriage ceremonies during this time.

Accordingly, magistrates shall continue to perform marriage ceremonies. Marriage ceremonies before magistrates shall be held in a location that is approved by the Chief District Court Judge and that is capable of allowing all persons in attendance to practice social distancing. Additionally, the Chief District Court Judge may restrict the hours and times during which marriage ceremonies are conducted, may require appointments for marriage ceremonies, and may restrict attendance at the marriage ceremonies.

This emergency directive is effective on Monday, 20 April 2020.

Issued this the 16th day of April, 2020.



Cheri Beasley
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of North Carolina